

CAPE MAY COUNTY PLANNING DEPARTMENT

Will Morey
Freeholder

4 Moore Road
Cape May Court House, N.J. 08210-1601
(609) 465-1080 x Fax: 465-1418
planningbd@co.cape-may.nj.us



Established 1953

Leslie L. Gimeno, PP, AICP

Planning Director

Cape May County Planning Board Minutes of the Meeting of January 15th, 2015 5:00 P.M., Intermediate Meeting Room County Administration Building 4 Moore Road Cape May Court House, New Jersey 08210

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 pm by Chairperson Boeshe; she subsequently read the public meeting notice.

Following the flag salute, roll call was taken with the following members being present:

Member	Present	Absent
Ms. Boeshe	x	
Mr. Foster	x	
Mr. Humphries	x	
Mr. Morey	X	
Mr. Rixey	X	
Mr. Thornton		x
Mr. Ashman	x	
Mr. Young	x	

Others in Attendance:

Leslie Gimeno, PP, AICP, County Planning Director
Brian O'Connor, County GIS Specialist

Minutes of September 18th:

Mr. Young made a motion to adopt the minutes, as written. Mr. Humphries seconded the motion. All in favor, with Mr. Ashman abstaining.

Report of Nominating Committee:

Ms. Gimeno wished the Board a Happy New Year and thanked them all for their continued service. She asked Mr. Foster for the report of the Nominating Committee for officers for 2015. Mr. Foster said that the Committee recommends keeping the current slate of officers, with Ms. Boeshe as Chair, Mr. Humphries as Vice-Chair, himself as Secretary, and Mssrs. Rixey and Humphries as the Development Review Committee. All Board members were in favor.

Correspondence:

Ms. Gimeno distributed the July/August, September/October, and November/December publications by the New Jersey Planning Officials. She recommended that Board members review the articles at their convenience.

Correspondence dated September 23, 2014 was received from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service indicating that they are seeking to acquire a 470-acre tract of land in the Burleigh section of Middle Township, 250 acres of which is outside the USFWS Acquisition Boundary. She said that the Refuge currently has approximately 11,500 acres in Lower, Middle, Dennis, and Upper Townships, and that the ultimate goal was 21,200. The primary purpose of the establishment of the Refuge was to secure habitat for migratory shore birds, with wildlife observation, photography, hunting, fishing, and environmental education being allowed on the sites. Ms. Gimeno said that this particular acquisition was interesting in that in the past years, funding has been scarce for USFWS purchases in our area. Board members were given a copy of the attachment to the correspondence which showed USFWS-owned properties in Middle Township, and several remarked about the extensiveness of the preserved land. Ms. Gimeno said that the graphic only represented Refuge-owned property, and that there were also many preserved farms and/or open space properties in the area.

Director's Report:

Ms. Gimeno provided an update on the Cape May County MUA's Single Stream Recycling initiative. She reminded the Board that the plant conversion to accommodate Single Stream had been completed in 2013, and collections had begun in 2014. The initiative appears to be a success, in that municipalities are saving significant amounts of money on the collection process, as only one truck is necessary for curbside collection of the commingled material. As examples, she noted that Ocean City had saved an estimated \$90,000 in their collection contract, and Middle Township saved \$73,000. An added benefit of the new collection system was that the MUA reported an overall increase of 29.75% of tonnage collected. This is great news in that less beneficial waste is going to the landfill, and also municipal rebates for recyclables will also increase.

Development Review Committee Summary:

Ms. Gimeno provided board members with summary of Development Review Committee activities, and thanked Mr. Humphries and Mr. Rixey for their continued service on behalf of the Board.

Old Business:

Water Quality Management Plan Update: Ms. Gimeno said that the WQMP Program was transitioning from the Office of Coastal Land Use Planning to the Office of Water Resources Coordination and that we would be getting a new liaison to NJDEP as part of this process. She indicated that the County's planning process was still "on hold" pending receipt of a grant extension and amendment to provide an additional \$25,000 in funding from the NJDEP to complete the plan.

In related matters, she indicated that the Cape May County MUA is pursuing funding to support the construction of a sanitary sewer pipeline from the landfill in Woodbine to the 7-mile treatment plant for the transport of wastewater from the landfill. Currently, wastewater from the landfill is collected and is trucked to the wastewater treatment plant. While the installation of the pipeline will be costly up front (estimated \$6 to \$ 8 million), it will make for more efficient and cost effective operations in the long run. The CCMUA is partnering with the Borough of Woodbine in this endeavor due to the Borough's long-standing interest in having sewer service extended to its downtown business district. It is estimated that the Woodbine local collection system would cost in excess of \$6 million, but they are evaluating the potential of obtaining grant funding to support their portion of the project.

The Strategic Planning Recovery Report Project, which is funded via a \$30,000 grant from the Post-Sandy Planning Grant program, is moving forward. We have a consultant on board (Maser Consulting), and the State has approved our work program. Currently, the consultant is working with County staff to obtain data on repetitive loss properties in our area. Once these areas have been generally identified, strategies to enhance their resiliency. After the SPRP has been completed and accepted by the State, we will move forward with the rewrite of the Cape May County Comprehensive Plan. This will also be funded through the grant program, with a budget of \$50,000.

Economic Development Updates: Ms. Gimeno said that work has continued with the County's oyster, wine/beer/distillery industries, and a forum with over 30 attendees was held on October 31st. The purpose of the event was to provide introductory education of each of the industries to the attendees, and to have a discussion on potential collaboration and the potential of establishing a multi-functional facility for education, visitors center, processing, tasting, and retail. The discussions were very positive and at the conclusion of the meeting, representatives from each industry were given "homework" and asked to evaluate any specific needs they would have for a facility.

The County was awarded the opportunity to host a "Prosperity Summit" by the National Association of Counties. Over 150 applicants all across the country applied, and we were one of five selected. The event has been described as a strategic planning session for economic development, where NACO would bring in experts to facilitate dialogue and to develop strategies for enhancing the County's economy. June 4th has been selected as the tentative date, and more information will follow as we work out the details of the event.

Cape May County has been designated as a "Coast Guard Community". This honorary designation commemorates the relationship between the Coast Guard and our 16 local

municipalities and is only the 2nd regional designation ever awarded by Congress. A Planning Committee has been established to plan a “Coast Guard Festival” during the weekend of May 8th. On Friday the 8th, there will be an official ceremony with the delivery of the Proclamation, followed by VIP tours and dinner on base. Saturday will be a family-oriented celebration with base tours, ship tours, harbor tours, a festival / BBQ on base, and an evening event at Convention Hall. The DRBA is hosting a breakfast event at the Ferry Terminal to round out the weekend.

New Business:

GIS Update: Brian O’Connor gave a brief demonstration on the new era of GIS, which involves web-based programming. He said that whereas traditional GIS involved hosting data on hard drives, advances in the field have led to server and web-based data which enable more interactive and real-time GIS manipulation and data collection. Brian showed the Board several examples of websites, including sites that had modeling for sea level rise and flooding events on the FEMA Region II coastal analysis and mapping site. Several sites throughout the County were used as examples to demonstrate potential flooding risks and associated Flood Zone designations, and Board members were impressed by the level of detail and information that the websites provided. A general discussion was held on the FEMA Flood Maps, their meaning, and the process for evaluating risk. Mr. O’Connor encouraged any Board member to visit him at the office if they had any specific questions or interest in obtaining additional information. Ms. Boeshe thanked Brian for his presentation.

Transportation Comments:

Mr. Foster said that the Sea Isle Boulevard project, which is anticipated to take between 5 – 6 years for construction, was a little behind schedule but he was happy to report that the first loads of fill had arrived on site today. Mr. Ashman asked if dredge materials could be used for the project. Mr. Foster said that it depends on the suitability of dredge materials. As an example, they had evaluated materials from Avalon’s site and found that there was too much silt. Whenever possible, the construction company will use the materials, mix it with other fill, and use it. Mr. Foster said that they were raising the Boulevard by 4 ½ feet but will be putting 6 ½ feet of fill in to allow for settling. Mr. Humphries asked how the level of fill required for this job compares to the Parkway construction. Mr. Foster said that additional fill is needed because of the proximity of meadow muck.

Mr. Foster said that the County’s FY 13 Federal Aid Project, Bay Avenue, is still in the construction phase. The schedule had been delayed due to weather issues, but completion is expected at the end of April. New Jersey Avenue, the 2014 Federal Aid Project, is due to start in March and should be completed by the end of summer. The 2015 project, reconstruction of Commonwealth Avenue in Strathmere, is in the design phase.

Mr. Foster expressed concern about the limited funding remaining in the State Transportation Trust Fund. He said that any funds collected will be going towards interest payments for bonds. One potential funding source to replenish the Trust is the gas tax.

Discussion continued, with Mr. Foster saying that the County has had a lot of success with the State Aid - Local Bridge Future Need Program. We have been successful in obtaining \$ ½ million for both the Lafayette Street and Upper Thorofare bridges, and \$1 million for the Corson's Inlet bridge. He said that Cape May County has only 23 bridges, but we are the 7th highest in square footage of deck areas in the State. If the Bridge Commission bridges are added in, the additional square footage makes us 2nd in the State.

Freeholder Morey asked if the overpass project for the Parkway was on schedule. Mr. Foster said that the northbound overpasses would be complete in June, weather permitting. Then work would be done on northbound entrance and exit ramps. Mr. Young asked what will happen to the temporary roadway. Mr. Foster said that that area is part of the mitigation plan, and that the asphalt will be removed. Due to construction, 26 acres of trees were destroyed; 21 acres will be replanted. Mr. Ashman asked if there was any potential beneficial reuse of the materials. Mr. Foster said yes, that the asphalt that will be removed is all being recycled, and that new asphalt can contain up to 25% of recycled materials.

Public Comment:

There was no public comment.

Adjournment:

Mr. Humphries made a motion to adjourn at 6:10 pm; Mr. Ashman seconded the motion. All in favor.